with camera **34** on, the timer **112** can send a signal S**4** to turn camera **34** off. Thus the camera circuit **38** has a dual sleep mode where the camera **34** and nearly all circuitry in circuit **38** except timer **110** sleeps until a signal **51** is received.

[0018] The circuit **38** can include an alternate sensor **150** that might close switch **120** based on receiving a local signal such as movement or sound in the remotely monitored location. Thus movement of an animal, or an elderly parent calling for help could close switch **120** and power up receiver decoder **122**. Alternately, for some applications, the motion detector **150** would apply a signal to the receiver decoder **122** that could only be detected when the timer **110** has the receiver detector **122** awake.

[0019] The camera power **132** comes from a step up voltage booster **131**. The voltage booster **131** can boost the voltage of a battery up to meet a minimum threshold required by the camera **34**. For example, if the battery **100** is going dead and its voltage has dropped below the minimum, the voltage booster will increase the battery voltage so that more power can be drained from the battery **100** to extend the camera **34** operating time. So if for example, the battery **100** was a 9 volt battery to power a camera that needed roughly 8 volts, experience has shown that when the batteries dropped to 7 volts the camera **34** would stop working wasting the remaining power.

[0020] The battery **100** currently used is three 1.5 volt AA batteries that are hooked in series to give 4.5 volts. The receiver **122** and timers **110** and **112** can operate directly on battery voltage. The camera **34** runs on approximately 8 volts, so to operate on the three AA battery **100** the voltage must be boosted.

[0021] In the preferred embodiment, battery power **100** is wired in parallel with solar cell **102**. Battery **100** is preferred to be 3 rechargeable AA batteries but other voltages and types of batteries may be used. The preferred analog video camera **34** is miniature, a low power, black and white, CMOS unit as is known in the art. Color CMOS units may also be used. The preferred analog video camera **34** operates on a standard transmission frequency of approximately 2.4 GHz, with a voltage range of 6 to 12 volts at a power output of 50 to 200 mw. The preferred analog video camera **34** can operate at a minimum illumination of 3 LUX.

[0022] Analog video camera **34** can be wired in series with the light source **32**. Light source **32** can be an LED light in the preferred embodiment but can also be made form halogen, incandescent or other types of light sources. The light **32** may not be required for some applications.

FIG. **3**

[0023] FIG. **3** shows the flow chart **300** for checking for activation signal S**1** and for turning the circuit **122** and camera system **30** on and off. The timer circuit **110** is turned on **302** and monitored **304** by switch **120**. So long as the timer **110** is off no power **306** is applied to receiver decoder circuit **122**. When the timer circuit **110** reaches a preset time, then power is applied to receiver decoder circuit **122** to listen **308** for signal S**1**.

[0024] If the signal S**1** is present **310**, then the timer **112** is started **312** and power is applied **314** to the camera system **30** for the amount of time preset in timer **112**. When the timer **112** expires **316**, power is turned off **318** from remote camera system **30**.

FIG. **4**

[0025] FIG. **4** shows a timeline comparing the duration of the timer **110** to the duration of the activation signal S**1**. The top line T**1** shows that the timer **110** periodically activates the receiver circuit **122**. The period when the receiver decoder circuit **122** is turned off is T**1**. The lower line shows an activation signal S**1** that occurs at some time. The duration of the activation signal is T**2** which is longed that the period T**1** such that the activation signal S**1** will be received no matter when it is sent because it will overlap at least one waking period for the receiving decoder circuit **122**. This conserves battery power at the remote site. The period T**2** may be longer than the user holds button **22**, the period T**2** can be created by mechanical or electronic means from a instant push of the button **22**.

Operation of Preferred Embodiment

[0026] The remote viewing system is normally in sleep mode. Remote RF receiver/decoder **38** in FIG. **2** is normally in standby/low power consumption mode waiting for a RF activation signal S**1** to activate the camera **34**. The user can turn the power on for monitor **50** and receiver for analog transmission **40** or in some cases these may be left on at all times and may be capable of recording a video transmission. The user activates power button **22** on transmitter **20**. Transmitter **20** then sends a radio frequency signal S**1** to instantaneous remote camera system **30** as shown in FIG. **1**. Instantaneous remote camera system **30** goes from low power-sleep mode to transmit power-on mode and transmits an instantaneous analog image to RF receiver **40** as shown in FIG. **1**. RF receiver **40** sends the visual and sound signal to television or other monitor **50** for viewing by the user. When the user releases power button **22**, the RF transmission stops when timer **112** times out and remote camera system **30** goes from transmit power-on mode to low power, sleep mode and the image stops. Thus a user could push and release button **22** to receive a brief view the length of which would be set by the time set for timer **112**. This would give the user a brief energy conserving look, the user could extend the video transmission S**2** by holding the button **22** down.

[0027] FIG. **2** shows the details of the components of the remote camera circuit **38**. Remote camera circuit **38** is normally in low power consumption-sleep mode and the only component activated is timer **110**. When timer **110** activates receiver decoder circuit **122** it checks for a signal S**1** for a length of time set on timer **110** which could be less than one second and then allows the receiver circuit **122** to sleep for a duration of time that can be seconds or minutes to save battery power. For example, the transmitter **20** can be set to send an activation signal S**1** that lasts for 30 seconds. The timer **110** can activate the receiver decoder once every 25 seconds, that is to say the duration of the sleep cycle is less than the duration of one activation signal. This creates an overlap where at least a portion of any 30 second activation signal S**1** must fall within one or more of the times when the receiver decoder circuit **122** is on to receive it.

[0028] Although the description above contains many specific details, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention.

[0029] Many different battery power sources can be used such as alkaline, nickel cadmium, lithium ion and others. The term battery is meant to include all battery systems known in the state of the art. Similarly there are many different types of receivers/controllers, transmitters and receivers with video transmission capabilities that are known in the state of the art